

T. D. Howe CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, Inc.



P. O. BOX 19027

TELEPHONE (713) 862-6602

Houston, Texas 77024

T. D. HOWE
JOE T. BARNETT
G. E. HOWE

December 19, 1977

Mr. Eric Newman
c/o Edison Bros Store Inc.
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

Dick Picker has suggested that I write or phone you to request your opinion of a Rhode Island Ship Token with wreath in pewter recently purchased by me by mail bid in a Bowers & Ruddy Auction. Dick does not like pewter as being too easy to counterfeit and, altho he has seen my piece, prefers not to go out on a limb concerning it.

Further I note that Taxay says "two known" and since this would be a third I feel that a competent opinion that it is genuine is desirable. I will be glad to pay any fees involved if you are willing to examine this piece. If you care to call me please reverse the charge.

Very truly yours,

T. D. Howe

TDH/b1

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 9, 1973

Mr. T. D. Howe
T. D. Howe Construction Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 19027
Houston, TX 77024

Dear Mr. Howe:

I am perfectly willing to examine your Rhode Island Ship Token, but whether I would give an opinion on it is problematical. You realize that the piece is not a coin, would not pass for money and was always listed in catalogues in spite of efforts of others not to include it as other than a medal.

I do feel that a non-destructive metal analysis should be made on it to determine the exact pewter content. The specific gravity should also be obtained and the weight carefully measured. We then can compare these to other known specimens if we can locate them.

I will be glad to examine the piece and see what findings result. Please give me complete detail as to what you paid for it, whether Dave gave you any background as to the ownership of the piece, etc.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

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T. D. Howe CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, Inc.



P. O. B O X 1 9 0 2 7

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Houston, Texas 77024

T. D. HOWE
JOE T. BARNETT
G. E. HOWE

January 12, 1978

Mr. Eric Newman
c/o Edison Bros Store Inc.
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

I appreciate very much your willingness to examine the enclosed R.I. Ship Medal in pewter to verify that is, indeed, genuine.

I bought by mail bid from the Bowers and Ruddy Auction of 12/8/77 Lot 5040 for \$925.00. I have no knowledge of its background ownership beyond the advertised guarantee of by B & R Galleries that all coins in the auction were genuine and as described (in this case XF).

Again please bill me for the cost of examination and accept my thanks.

Sincerely,

T. D. Howe

TDH/bl

encl.

T. D. Howe
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, Inc.



P. O. BOX 19027

TELEPHONE (713) 862-6602

Houston, Texas 77024

T. D. HOWE
JOE T. BARNETT
G. E. HOWE

February 16, 1978

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5 Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have not heard from you concerning the R. I. Ship Token mailed to you c/o Edison Bros January 12th and received by them January 16th in response to your nice letter of January 9th expressing a willingness to test it as genuine or not.

Is a month too soon for me to wonder what has happened to it?

Sincerely,

T. D. Howe

TDH/bl

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 20, 1978

Mr. T. D. Howe
P. O. Box 19027
Houston, TX 77024

Dear Mr. Howe:

Nothing has happened to your coin and a month may be long to you, but it certainly is short to me. I have mounds of requests like yours for numismatic research and opinions.

Are you willing to spend a small amount of money to have a non-destructive chemical analysis made of the material out of which your coin is made? That may produce interesting results.

Sincerely yours,



Eric P. Newman

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YES



T. D. Howe

February 25, 1978

Dear Eric:

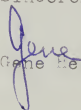
Thank you for the photocopies, this is exactly what I'm looking for. It is necessary to know on what these pieces are printed, India paper, India paper on card or just card.

If it would not cause you any inconvenience, I would like photographs of: \$1 trial, both stages of \$2 trial and the \$5 legal tender note.

The Easter Show begins next week at the Music Hall, and if a solution is not found before April 12, it will all be history.

Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,


Gene Hessler

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 12, 1978

Mr. T. D. Howe
P. O. Box 19027
Houston, TX 77024

Dear Mr. Howe:

The study of your pewter Rhode Island medal is very difficult. I want to call your attention to certain findings which bother me. You can recognize them from your catalog picture of #5040 of the December 8, 1977 Sale of B & R.

The border beading does not seem to be normal for a struck piece. Except for three beads under AG, the 1779 side of the coin is missing beads from 9 to 11 o'clock and they come to abrupt ends rather than phase off. This might be claimed to be caused by metal adhering to the die. The pushed in section of beads above 8 does not seem to be caused by a dent or any adherence to the die. The Section of beads from 7 to 8 o'clock passing through D on the 1778 side is more indicative of a casting defect as the D is ordinarily well clear of the border beading on brass pieces.

These matters require further thought and I wanted you to know you are not neglected.

I understand you are in contact with Dick Picker and you could send him a copy of this notice if you wish.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

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ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 9, 1978

Mr. T. D. Howe
P. O. Box 19027
Houston, TX 77024

Dear Mr. Howe:

I have concluded that you should return the pewter Rhode Island medal which you sent to me for an opinion.

The lettering is weak when compared to pieces on brassy material. I have finally located one in pewter and it is a much stronger strike. Your top right serif on I in 1778 is missing. The A of AUG is irregular.

I have also recently seen a brass piece with damage to the border due to someone dropping it. The brass is ship's metal and is soft enough to have the border beads displaced easily. I believe the displacement of the beads passing through D on the 1778 side of your piece was on the brass piece from which your piece was made rather than having been direct damage to your pewter piece. There is no evidence of a dent on your piece and the defect is solid rather than abutting. Yours, therefore, must be a cast of another piece and, therefore, false in my opinion.

To add to this the border beads are missing from 9 to 11 o'clock on the 1779 side, except for three at AG. I can't explain this except by a casting problem. Similarly the damage to the beads above the 8 does not seem to be normal damage. The border damage over MI of ADMIRAL does not seem to be from a dent.

Taxay listed two known of the pewter piece with the ornament complete. One is at Johns Hopkins. Yet I have yours and another to examine now and it is a danger signal that new ones have appeared.

The edge of your piece is rounded rather than vertically punched out as in other brass and pewter pieces. It is a lighter gray than the one I have on hand and the pewter pieces are too rare to be made out of different mixes of metal if made at the same time (but this is a weak argument).

Mr. T. D. Howe
May 9, 1978
Page 2 -

Your piece has a 7.15 specific gravity which is normal.

It was indeed a challenge to try to authenticate this piece.
It is returned herewith.

We hope we have been helpful.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.

REGISTERED MAIL

T. D. Howe
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, Inc.



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G. E. HOWE

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May 12, 1978

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

While I am disappointed at your conclusion concerning my R.I. Ship Medal in pewter I am, nevertheless, appreciative of your time and trouble.

You have saved me \$925.00 and I wish you would send me a bill and let me reimburse you for your efforts. In the absence of such a bill the least I can do is reimburse you your postage. You should not be out of pocket as well as time and trouble.

Sincerely,

T. D. Howe

TDH/bl

encl.

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